

(Replacement)

**(ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method for operating a four stroke internal combustion engine in which the combustion position can be set/controlled/corrected. The phase position of intake and/or exhaust phase is shifted for this purpose. Compression ignition takes place at part-load, and spark ignition takes place at full load. In the event of a load change in the part-load range, the theoretical shift in the combustion position is compensated by the shift in phase position of the intake and/or exhaust phase.